

STRANDED CHORUS GIRLS BECOME FEATURE OF MORALS COURT

Stranded chorus girls, who get "down and out" miles from home in the summer time and then go out on the streets at night to earn money with which to live, are becoming daily features of the Morals Court.

Chicago is the biggest theatrical center west of New York. It is in this city that hundreds of fly-by-night companies dump their members each spring.

In Chicago they must lay around sometimes as long as six months until they catch a company going out in the fall. During this long lack of work they must do something to keep body and soul together.

Many of the chorus girls come from poor homes in faraway cities. They can get no money from home. So they must live out their existence in a strange city the best way they know.

And that is why pretty little dancing girls, with the faces of children, are being brought into the Morals Court with such startling frequency.

It seems much worse this summer than ever before. The regular theater was dealt a hard blow by the movies. Some actors and actresses have had as many as a half dozen engagements during the past season. And at the end of the season they find themselves broke.

Judge Goodnow, presiding judge in the Morals Court; Prosecutor Max Korshak and Kate Adams, head of the Coulter House, are now wrestling with the problem. Kate Adams has taken some of them to her refuge on Calumet avenue.

"It is pitiful to see these girls in the Morals Court," said Judge Goodnow. "Some of them come here that are merely little girls who have started out with fine ambitions. But in the summer time when the refuge of a job is gone they come face to face with the ugly side of life; with the

struggle for existence. And some of them yield.

"I think it would be a good idea if the theatrical people started some sort of a fund out of which these girls could be sent to their homes during the summer time. Chicago is too hard for a strange girl fighting life's big struggles."

In the Morals Court the other day a case was brought up that showed distinctly the need of better protection for chorus girls. Two young girls, extremely pretty, were brought in, charged with soliciting.

It was apparent they were not "regulars." In broken voices they told their story. They had been in the show business for one season. They saw bright futures ahead. But the show closed in May. Each had a small sum laid aside, but that soon went. And then they met two men one day through a theatrical friend. There was a much-needed dinner, a restful auto ride and then the other.

The judge paroled them.

PRISONERS IN RIOT DEMAND WOMEN GUARDS

New York, July 9.—The first suffrage mutiny in the history of New York was staged at Blackwell's Island penitentiary yesterday when forty prisoners hurled dishes at the heads of the keepers and Warden Hayes, and yelled "We don't want men. Votes for women."

As a result, Miss Katherine E. Davis, commissioner of corrections, who was attending Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont's suffrage gathering at Newport at the time, faces the task of dealing with the first serious outbreak which has occurred in penal institutions since she assumed office.

Five keepers and several prisoners were taken to the hospital severely cut about the face after quiet had been restored by the firing of a pistol over the heads of the mutineers.